

**In The Claims:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

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1. (currently amended) A food utensil comprising:

an elongated hollow body for supporting an elongated food product, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior, an open first end and a second end, a diameter, and a length greater than said diameter; and

a plurality of blades extending across said interior in a plane perpendicular to said inner and outer walls for cutting a food item.

- C 2. (presently amended) A food utensil comprising:

a hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior, an open first end and a second end, a cross-sectional area, and a length greater than said cross-sectional area; and

a plurality of blades extending across said interior in a plane perpendicular to said inner and outer walls for cutting a food item.

3. (previously amended) The utensil of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end and a blade rack slidably engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said plurality of blades wherein each of said plurality of blades correspondingly extends through one of said plurality of grooves.

4. (previously amended) The utensil of claim 1 further comprising a base fixed to the second end.

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5. (original) The utensil of claim 2 wherein said plurality of blades comprises a plurality of wires wrapped about said blade rack.
  6. (original) The utensil of claim 1 further comprising a food receptacle removably attached to said first open end for holding a food product.
  7. (original) The utensil of claim 6 further comprising at least one hole extending through said food receptacle and at least one corresponding prong extending through said at least one hole for holding said food product.
  8. (previously amended) The utensil of claim 2 wherein each of said plurality of grooves with respect to another equidistantly terminates between said first and second ends.
  9. (original) The utensil of claim 1 wherein said plurality of blades is fixed to said inner wall.
  10. (original) The utensil of claim 1 wherein said plurality of blades is fixed to said open first end.
  11. (currently amended) A food utensil comprising:
    - an elongated hollow body for encasing an elongated food product, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall forming an interior and an outer wall, an open first end and a closed second end, a diameter, a length greater than said diameter, and, a plurality of grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end;
    - a plurality of blades extending across said interior; and
    - a blade rack slidably engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said plurality of blades wherein each of said plurality of blades correspondingly extends through one of said plurality of grooves.

12. (previously added ) The utensil of claim 11 wherein each of said plurality of grooves with respect to another equidistantly terminates between said first and second ends.

13. (currently amended) An appliance comprising:

an elongated hollow body for supporting an elongated food product, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior, a diameter, and a length greater than said diameter;

a plurality of blades fixed within said interior and extending across said interior; and

a receptacle for holding an item to be sliced, that upon appliance operation is slidably engaged along said outer wall thereby forcing said item against said blades for slicing thereof.

14. (currently amended) A method of slicing a food item comprising:

providing a fixed plurality of blades within an elongated hollow body and across a diameter thereof, the elongated hollow body having a length greater than the diameter;

inserting an elongated food item to be sliced in a receptacle, said elongated food item supported by said elongated hollow body; and

slidably engaging the receptacle along an outer circumference of the hollow body to bias the item against and at least partially through the blades thereby slicing the item.

15. (currently amended) A method of slicing a food item comprising:

placing an elongated food item within an elongated hollow body of an

appliance along a length of the hollow body, said elongated food item supported by said elongated hollow body, the elongated body having a length greater than a respective diameter;

providing a plurality of blades within the hollow body and across a the diameter thereof; and

sliding the blades along the length of the hollow body thereby slicing at least a portion of the cylindrical food item.

16. (currently amended) A method of slicing an elongated food item comprising:

providing a plurality of blades within an elongated hollow body and across a cross-section thereof, the elongated body having a length greater than the diameter; and

affecting a relative motion between the elongated food item and the plurality of blades thereby slicing at least a portion of the food item and yet supporting the elongated food item within the elongated hollow body.

17. (currently amended) A food slicer comprising:

an elongated hollow body for slicing an elongated food item, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall, said walls defining an elongated interior that supports the elongated food item, and said hollow body having a length greater than a respective diameter;

a plurality of blades within said elongated hollow body and extending across a cross-section thereof; and

a means for affecting a relative motion between said plurality of blades and the elongated food item whereby at least a portion of the elongated food item is sliced within said interior.